

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00750 150833Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /066 W

-----030847 161137Z /10

R 141544Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7106

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 750

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SR, PBIO

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN CABINET CHANGES

1. ON APRIL 1, SEVERAL MINOR CHANGES TOOK PLACE IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CABINET. AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED (CAPE TOWN 120), SENATOR J.P. VAN DER SPUY RETIRED AND WAS REPLACED AS MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS BY A NEWCOMER TO THE CABINET, F.W. DE KLERK. VAN DER SPUY, WHO WAS ALSO LEADER OF THE SENATE, WAS REPLACED IN THAT CAPACITY BY MINISTER OF FINANCE OWEN HORWOOD, THE ONLY OTHER SENATOR IN THE CABINET. IN THE SUB-CABINET, MEANWHILE, ANDRIES TREURNICHT WAS MADE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLURAL RELATIONS (FORMERLY BANTU AFFAIRS) IN ADDITION TO RETAINING HIS PREVIOUS POST OF DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING (FORMERLY BANTU EDUCATION).

2. COMMENT: THESE LATEST CHANGES DO NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE DYNAMICS OF THE CABINET. DE KLERK HAS A REPUTATION AS A SOLID VERLIGTE, AND AS SUCH REPRESENTS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER HIS SOMEWHAT COLORLESS PREDECESSOR.

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THE MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, HOWEVER, IS NORMALLY UNCONTROVERSIAL AND WILL GIVE DE KLERK LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES TO PUT HIS VIEWS DIRECTLY INTO ACTION.

3. THE CONFERRING OF ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES ON ARCH-CONSERVATIVE ANDRIES TREURNICHT CAUGHT MOST

OBSERVERS BY SURPRISE. ALTHOUGH THE MOVE IS NOT
REGARDED AS A PROMOTION, EVEN BY HIS FOLLOWERS, SINCE IT
MERELY RESTORES TO HIM THE SECOND DEPUTY MINISTRY
WHICH HE HAD HELD PRIOR TO THE JANUARY CABINET SHUFFLE,
IT NEVERTHELESS DEMONSTRATES THAT HE DOES MAINTAIN
IMPORTANT INFLUENCE. MOREOVER, HE IS NOW
IN THE UNUSUAL POSITION OF BEINGDEPUTY TO TWO DIFFERENT
MINISTERS (CONNIE MULDER AND WILLEM CRUYWAGEN), AND CONTINUING
HIS WIDE SCOPE IN AFFAIRS DEALING WITH BLACKS.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780456/aaaabvat.tel
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